

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to define the term "hydrophilic group," and is supported by the specification at least by the chemical structures found on pages 6, 8, and 9. In view of the above amendment and following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 10-18 have been rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

The Patent Office has indicated the term "hydrophilic group" is too broad and not supported by the specification. In order to further prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1 to define the hydrophilic group as comprising an ether group, a substituted amine, a salt of a substituted amine, a quaternary amine, a carboxyl group, or a carbonyl group. This is supported by at least the chemical structures shown in the specification at pages 6, 8, and 9.

The Patent Office further rejects the term "water-soluble" as unduly broad in view of Applicants' list of polymers set forth in the Preliminary Amendment dated June 30, 2004. In the Preliminary Amendment, Applicants submitted that the polymer could be "a polyamide, polyester, polyether, vinylic polymer, polyimine, polyesteramide or polyurethane" as recited in the specification at page 7, lines 13-16, because the base chain of all of the recited polymers "includes hydrophilic groups, for example, quaternary amines, carboxyl groups, or carbonyl groups." As amended, Applicants claimed invention requires the presence of a hydrophilic group incorporated into the base chain, wherein the hydrophilic group comprises an ether group, a substituted amine, a salt of a substituted amine, a quaternary amine, a carboxyl group, or a carbonyl group. As stated in the last amendment, polymers, including polyurethane, can be water-soluble if one segment of the polymer is very hydrophilic. Applicants have found that incorporating one or more hydrophilic group into the base chain does enable a water-soluble polyurethane, as well as water-soluble polyamides, polyesters, polyethers, vinylic polymers, polyimines, and polyesteramides, as set forth in the specification at page 7, lines 13-16.

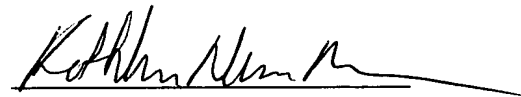
In view of the amendment to claim 1, and for at least the above reasons, Applicants submit the claims are definite. Reconsideration and

withdrawal of the rejection over 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, are respectfully solicited.

Applicants submit all of claims 1 and 10-18 are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons set forth herein. Applicants thank Examiner Shosho for the indicated allowability of the claims over the cited art, and withdrawal of all other previous rejections. Reconsideration and action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be in order, and is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner require anything further, or have any questions regarding the application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Neuner Manne', is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 40,101

Kathleen Neuner Manne/cak
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: 585-722-0225
Facsimile: 585-477-1148

If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.